

**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Training Committee
May 12, 2017, 10:00 AM
Middletown Police Department**

Committee Members Present: Ellie Torres (Designee Chair), Terica Jones (CJC), Rosemary Martinez (DVTF), Melissa Pennachi (VRTF), Nancy McGee (SAND). **Members Participating Via Phone:** Cara Sawyer (VCAP)

DVCC Staff: Aimee String, Natasha Smith, Maureen Monagle

Public Attendees: No public present

The agenda items were discussed in the following order:

- I. Introductions
 - a. All those participating introduced themselves and the agencies/groups they represent.
- II. New Business
 - a. Committee Purpose
 - i. The committee came about as a result of the Family Court Enhancement Project. Several of the recommendations to come out of that project involved training and identified the need for coordinated efforts.
 - b. Committee membership
 - i. Various agencies and individuals were invited to be members of the committee. In addition to the members present, there is interest from faculty at Widener University Delaware Law School. They may be more available after the semester ends. Ellie Torres suggested that we invite a member of the medical community to participate. After some discussion the group agreed to reach out to one of the SANE Coordinators, possibly at CCHS. The DVCC's Medical Committee can also be asked for input on the kind of trainings that they need.
 - ii. Ellie also suggested that we invite someone from the Education Field. Aimee String agreed to reach out to John Sadowski from the Department of Education, asking for a recommendation.
 - iii. A recommendation was made to invite the Office of Defense Services (ODS). A name was recommended for DVCC staff.
 - iv. Follow up with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for a possible member to ensure there is broader reach to the other Courts.

c. Discussion of Emerge Training and Agenda

- i. About a year ago David Adams of Emerge reached out to the DVCC offering to provide a free training in Delaware. The training will bring numerous national trainers. Emerge receives a federal grant directly from the Office on Violence Against Women. His particular grant funding requires that the focus be on Judges and Commissioners.
- ii. The Emerge training will be the Training Committee's first big project. The training is scheduled to take place on September 20-21st with the first day of the training exclusive to Court Personnel. The second day will be open to other interested agencies/persons. The training is scheduled to take place at Delaware Technical Community College in Dover, DE.
- iii. Aimee String provided several handouts to the committee including: bios of Emerge Faculty, a list of possible training topics provided by Emerge, an agenda for an Emerge Conference held in Coeur D'Arlene, ID, an agenda for an Emerge Conference held in Kansas City, MO and a draft agenda for a two-day training in Dover, DE.
- iv. Discussion of proposed Dover agenda
 1. Ellie Torres suggested that perhaps we should provide two options for the final session on September 20th. The proposed training, Domestic Violence Assessments and Child Custody Evaluations, is very specific to family court. The committee agreed that it would be helpful to provide a second session that would be appealing to other courts. One suggested topic was Strangulation.
 2. Aimee String noted that there had been some discussion with David Adams about adding in time for an open dialogue session for judges and commissioners.
 3. Aimee String noted that the draft schedule allows for an hour lunch break and funding does not allow us to provide lunch at the training. Participants will need to go off campus for lunch. The committee agreed that we would either need to extend lunch or find an agency that would be willing to donate lunch at least on the first day.
 - a. Aimee String will talk to DelTech to see what the estimated cost of providing a lunch would be.
 4. Melissa Pennachi noted that she was pleased to see a training session devoted to safety assessment. The committee members agreed that this is a needed and important topic.
 5. Aimee String noted that while attending the National Batterer's Intervention Conference there was lot of discussion about treatment provider's need for technology training. This is a rapid and ever-changing field and treatment providers need frequent and in depth training to understand how it is being used in abusive relationships. A committee member suggested replacing the session on trauma, as there

has been a lot of training on trauma offered in Delaware. All members agreed.

d. Future trainings/projects

- i. The committee discussed several ideas for future trainings.
 1. The need for online trainings specifically for the law enforcement, medical and education fields.
 2. The committee can use the Emerge training as a “kick off” for the Training Committee. In an exit survey we can seek input on what kinds of trainings are needed. Moe suggested that perhaps we can set up a 2 year plan for certain necessary refresher courses (ie: technology, stalking,etc).
 3. Possible Topics for future trainings include: Using kids as witnesses, prosecuting without a witness, working with marginalized populations, primary aggressor, helping police understand the advantages of working with an advocate.

e. Law Enforcement Training Update

- i. The LET workgroup will continue to work as a separate workgroup but our committee may provide support and input.
- ii. The LET workgroup had their first planning meeting. The tentative date is November 6th at Polytech Adult Education Center with the focus of the training being technology. It has been several years since we have provided training on this topic.

f. Future Meetings

- i. The next meeting will be held on June 5th at 10:00 AM at Middletown Police Department.